1.	Amritsar	— 15601
2.	Patiala	— 10863
3.	Jallandhar	— 34508
4.	Ludhiana	— 65252

(b) and (c) New telephone exchanges are under installation at these places to provide telephone connections to the wailing persons. More than 70,000 new telephone connections arc envisaged to be provided as per annual plan 1994-95 in various places in Punjab including the four districts mentioned in part (a), to reduce the backlog of waiting list.

The waiting list as on 31.10.94 in the four districts is likely to be cleared by March '96 subject to timely availability of equipment and other resources.

NSC/Kisan Vikas Patra facilities in the Post Offices in Punjab

2392. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: .Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facilities of National Savings Ccrtificatc/Kisan Vikas Patras and other saving schemes are available in all post offices in the country, particularly in the rural border areas of Punjab;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what concrete steps are being taken by Government to provide these facilities in each of the post offices in the rural border areas in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, the facilities of National Savings Certificate/ Kisan Vikas Patras and other saving schemes arc available in all Head Post Offices and Departmental Post Offices in the country. These facilities also stand extended to Extra Departmental Post Offices, according to their demand and justification. Public Provident Fund Scheme is available in all Head Post Offices and selected Departmental Sub Post Offices. The facility of collection of Instrument and making payments for investment in all Schemes is available in all the Post Offices in the country. Similar is the position in all the Post Offices in rural border areas of Punjab State.

(b) and (c) In view of (a), does not arise.

Privatization of Long Distance Telecom Routes

2393. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified few long-distance telecom routes to be offered to private sector for setting up the facility on turn-key or build, lease, transfer scheme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Problem in Cash Payment of Telephone Bills

2394. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether payment of telephone bills in cash is posing severe problems to the telephone subscribers in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what steps the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited propose to take to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.